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LEPROSY NOT DUE TO FISH.

LONDON, July 2.- Leprosy must now be added to the other scourges which afflict South Africa. Until recently the extent to which this disease was prevalent in South Africa was little known. The fact that it existed in the Transvaal was practically quite unknown, yet Dr. Turner, the health officer of the Transvaal, reports that whereas there were 109 cases in his charge in 1895 there are now over 200. Dr. Turner adds the remarkable fact that no one knows how many lepers there are in the Transvaal. He says that a medical officer who had been in charge of the lepers and had taken much interest in the matter asserted that there were at least 3,000 in 1900.

The disease is defying the most heroic efforts at its extermination in Cape Colon, while it is also spreading in Basutoland and elsewhere. The worst afflicted are the Hottentots; the Kaffirs, with the exception of the Europeans, being the least affected.

Prof. Jonathan Hutchinson's theory that eating fish, especially cured, is the chief cause of the disease has been fully set forth in The Sun. His arguments and statistics are cogent, but hitherto have found little support. Dr. Turner, as the result of most careful investigation, differs absolutely from Dr. Hutchinson.

Official returns show that 70 per cent, of the total amount of fish entering the Transvaal goes to Johannesburg. Nearly all of this is eaten by whites, but until December there was not a single European in the Johannesburg leper hospital. Then a man who was born in Europe was admitted. He was a member of a large family, all of whom are living in the Transvaal. None of the others is a leper. In Dr. Turner's opinion, his disease was clearly the result of contagion, as he habitually associated with a leper.

Of Dr. Turner's 210 patients, 44 per cent, had eaten fish, only 17 per cent, of which was cured fish. Among the white lepers 95 per cent. had eaten fish, 45 per cent. of which was cured fish. Among the colored patients, who made up four-fifths of the total, only 30 per cent, ever tasted fish, and only 10 had eaten cured fish.

Dr. Turner is convinced that contagion is the most usual means of the spread of leprosy. He treated a few cases in which it was possible to assert that its origin was hereditary, but practically none in which contagion could be excluded and several in which contagion was the sole explanation. He believes it will eventually be proved that some vermin is the cause of the infection.

ESKIMO BATH NO JOKE.

Boys who make a fuss because their parents oblige them to take frequent baths should be glad that they are not Eskimo children, living on the shores of Norton Sound. In that cold region of Alaska all the boys are obliged to take a sweat bath every week, and this bath is no joke.

A fire of driftwood is built in the center of the floor of the kasmim-the one-roomed house where the men and boys of a village pass most of their time-and when the smoke has passed off and the wood is reduced to red, glowing coals, a cover is put over the smokehole in the roof and the place becomes intensely hot.

The boys then must take off their clothes and sit about the furnace-like apartment until their skins become as red as the shell of a boiled lobster, and seem on the point of blistering.

Owing to the intense heat the bathers are obliged to wear re-

spirators, to protect their lungs. These respirators are pads of shavings bound together, concave on the inside and convex on the outside, and large enough to cover the mouth, nose, and part of the cheeks of the wearer.

Across the inside runs a little wooden bar, which is held in the WM. G. IRWIN & CO., LTD. teeth to keep the respirator in place. The boys sit there until they are dripping with perspiration, then they rush outside into the intense cold and roll in the snow.

tigating for the government the Eskimo living about the Bering Sugar Factors and Commission Agents strait, says: "On several occasions I saw them go from the sweat baths to holes in the ice on a neighboring stream, and, squatting Oceanic Steamship Company there, pour ice water over their backs and shoulders with a wooden dipper, apparently experiencing the greatest pleasure from the oper-

Although the Eskimo boys seem to withstand such a bath as this all right, and even to enjoy it, it would, in all probability, kill any white boy who tried it.-Philadelphia Inquirer.

WOMEN SUICIDES WEAR THEIR BEST CLOTHES.

Women who are driven to suicide presumably lose most of their ambition before taking the fatal plunge, but there is one femi- London. nine trait that they retain to the end, namely, pride in clothes.

"Seldom," says a doctor whose position has required him to perform post-mortem services for many of these unfortunates, have I seen a woman who did not go to her death as well dressed as her circumstances would allow. The published reports of these tragedies confirm my observation. Read in the papers the account of a suicide, and nine times out of ten it will wind up by saying 'the woman was well dressed,' or, at the least, 'her clothing was neat and clean.'

"Unless these women belong to the dregs they are found dressed in the silk skirt and silk waist which have become the inevitable garb of the suicide of moderate means. At the last the true feminine instinct seems to assert itself, and, although the woman will not be here to read the account of the tragedy, she wants to die in the blessed satisfaction that she will be written up as a well dressed member of society."-Chicago Tribune.



A noted dermatologist says, "The time is coming when an unsterilized public hair brush will be as rare as a public tooth brush." The reason is that dirty hair brushes spread dendruff, and true dandruff is now known to be a contagious disease

Drug Stores, \$1.00. Send 10c., stamps, to HERPICIDE Co., Dept. H, Detroit, Mich., for a sample. children should know that it is dirty to use another's hair brush." Newbro's Herpicide renders public hair brushes harmless by destroying the dandruff microbe. A delightful hair dressing. Gives wonderful results.

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